



State of Illinois
Bruce Rauner, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
Randall S. Blankenhorn, Secretary

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CONTACT:
Gianna Uργο 312.814.4693
Guy Tridgell 312.793.4199
Maggie Daly Skogsbakken (Pace) 847.228.4222

IDOT, Pace Expand Bus on Shoulder Success to the Edens

Program will maximize capacity, improve reliability and reduce carbon footprint

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that construction will begin this week on the Edens Expressway (Interstate 94) to support the expansion of the popular bus on shoulder program. Nighttime traffic impacts will take place on the expressway until the project is completed this fall.

“This minor modification to our infrastructure will have far-reaching benefits for commuters and the environment,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn. “Expanding the success of this convenient, innovative program to the Edens provides travelers in the region one more option to get to where they need to go, while reducing congestion and building more reliability into their trips.”

The bus on shoulder program will allow existing Pace routes 626 and 620, which connect the northeast suburbs and Chicago, to operate on the expressway’s outside shoulders in both directions between Foster Avenue and Lake Cook Road. The \$7 million project consists of resurfacing the outside shoulders, as well as some travel lanes, adding new signage and modifying rumble strips.

Since the bus on shoulder program was implemented on the Stevenson Expressway (Interstate 55) in 2011, Pace’s on-time performance increased from 70 percent to 90 percent along the corridor. The program allows Pace buses to use the inside shoulders to bypass traffic when speeds have dropped below 35 mph.

“We’ve seen unprecedented ridership growth along the I-55 corridor thanks to bus-on-shoulder operations,” said Pace Chairman Richard Kwasneski. “Since Pace launched its Bus on Shoulder program in 2011, ridership in the corridor has grown by almost five times. When there’s congestion on the roadway, bus-on-shoulder service is faster and more reliable than driving. Commuters see that and choose our service over their cars. We believe they will do the same in the Lake-Cook region and are excited to partner with IDOT on this project.”

A full Pace bus takes an estimated 50 vehicles off the road, easing congestion for the thousands of vehicles that drive along the Edens each day and cutting down on harmful emissions. Pace customers who utilize the service can make their trips even more productive by taking advantage of free onboard wifi. Visit the Pace [website](#) to learn more about bus on shoulders. Beginning Monday, May 15, weather permitting, nightly lane closures will take place in both directions between Foster Avenue and Lake Cook Road. The expressway at times will be reduced to one lane in each direction during the overnight hours. Expressway entrance and exit ramp closures also may be required.

Click [here](#) to find details on other construction projects in IDOT's District 1. Updates on the impacts to traffic are available at www.travelmidwest.com.

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